



Composite Health Care System II

Records When and Where You Need Them

Discover CHCS II — Your New Electronic Medical Record

Beginning October 17, 2005, when you visit the 21st Medical Group (MDG) at Peterson AFB, you will probably see a new computer terminal in your provider's office or exam room. This terminal is part of an exciting new computer information system being added to the medical treatment facilities' existing technologies. Called Composite Health Care System II, or CHCS II for short, this system is replacing current paper-based records with a permanent, computer-based patient record, which will be accessible by authorized providers and staff throughout the DoD's Military Health System (MHS). The 21st MDG is installing the system in conjunction with all MHS facilities, stateside and overseas, with a special module for military deployments. When fully installed, CHCS II will provide each beneficiary with a computer-based patient record. This new record is an automated, permanent (life-long) computerized record that will contain your past health history that has been entered in CHCS II, current health status, and health planning recommendations. Over several years, the MHS plans to bring CHCS II to each military treatment facility, stateside and overseas.

Eventually, CHCS II computer documentation will replace all paper-based health records. When the migration to computerized medical records is complete throughout the DOD, the paper records will be archived. With CHCS II, your provider will enter the health information from your visit into the computer. That information is then instantly recorded in your electronic medical record throughout the medical facility and elsewhere in the MHS. For instance, any laboratory, radiology, or pharmacy orders are sent immediately to the respective department. Providers and staff will not have to sort through stacks of records to find your record, various forms will not be misplaced or misfiled, and once CHCS II is implemented throughout the DOD, you will not have to hand carry your records between duty stations or facilities. With CHCS II, your health records will be accurate and legible for all providers. The system will alert your provider about possible drug allergies or other current prescribed drugs, thereby reducing the potential for medical errors. The system also will ensure the availability of past laboratory and radiology reports, saving time and reducing the number of possible repeat procedures.

CHCS II is secure. Password protection ensures only authorized people (designated MTF staff with "a need to know" basis) have access to your personal information. These healthcare professionals understand confidentiality and value individual patient rights. Unlike paper records, however, your computer record will not be misplaced and will be readily available on a 24/7 basis, as needed. When necessary, a paper copy of your computerized record can be easily printed. Initially, as your provider and the MTF staff become familiar with this new technology, you may experience a slight increase in the

length of your appointments as your health encounter information is documented in CHCS II.

Implementing a computer system as sophisticated as CHCS II is not easy - the learning curve for health providers is steep. Consequently, the 21 MDG needs your help. In order to allow time for the staff to gain proficiency on the system, appointment schedules will be adjusted. No acute need will go unmet, but access to routine appointments may take a little longer during the transition to CHCS II. The pay off for your patience will ultimately result in a vastly improved and safer MHS medical records system. As the MTF staff becomes experienced with this new clinical information system, you will see a return to the normal process. Our training period begins October 17 and ends in mid-December. We ask for your patience during this time as we learn how to use the new system.

The Department of Defense developed this new healthcare system for MHS facilities worldwide. This system will offer special features of direct benefit to you, your healthcare provider, the MHS staff, and the DoD. The Department of Defense Military Health System is committed to improving the delivery of healthcare services to all its beneficiaries. For more information about CHCS II call Capt Don Brown at (719) 556-3870 or MSgt Craig Dickey at (719) 556-1020.